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Dog trainer suffers broken fingers in Dundee street attack by 'XL Bully-type' breed

Dani Butchart was working with another dog to help build its confidence when the incident occurred on Arklay Street.

by **James Simpson** July 22 2025, 3:17pm

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Dani and the lurcher mix both sustained injuries. Image: Supplied

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A dog trainer suffered broken fingers as she used her body "as a shield" to protect a lurcher mix from a frenzied attack by an XL bully-type dog in Dundee.

Dani Butchart, who runs Canny K9 Dog Training, was working with the dog to help build its confidence when the incident occurred in Arklay Street on Monday July 14.

Speaking to The Courier, the 40-year-old said she crossed the road to avoid four people walking a dog that appeared to be muzzled.

The attack is now being investigated by police as officers attempt to trace the dog and those involved.

The dog was rushed to the vet for treatment. Image: Dani Butchart

Dani said: "We'd just come off Clepington Road on to Arklay Street.

"I've been working with a client's dog for a few weeks to build up its confidence.

"There were four people near the shop, and I noticed they had a dog.

"It was muzzled and on a lead, so I crossed the road to give us space."

However, moments later, the dog broke free.

Dundee dog trainer says 'it was snapping, snarling – completely wild'

"I heard a woman in the group shouting that the dog had come off the lead and it came towards us," she said.

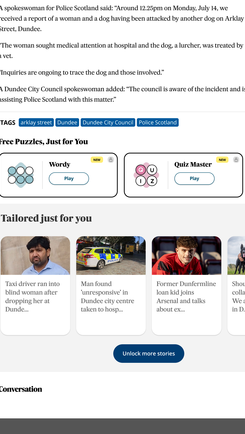
"It was snapping, snarling – completely wild. I had to brace myself and use my body as a shield.

"The attacking dog's collar was badly fitted and the muzzle was attached to it.

"The people with it couldn't control it.

"None of them seemed coherent, and the dog was crazed."

Dani said there were two separate attacks – the first lasting about a minute, and the second lasting "a few minutes."



Dani suffered broken fingers during the attack on Arklay Street, Dundee. Image: Dani Butchart

The XL bully-type dog latched on to the lurcher's skin several times, causing tears to her stomach and abdomen.

Dani sustained multiple leg injuries and broken fingers, while the lurcher suffered numerous puncture wounds.

"This dog weighed about seven stone," she said. "It was terrifying.

"Someone eventually managed to choke the XL bully-type dog with a lead to break its grip, and I ran with the lurcher to a nearby business.

"Two of the adults fled with the XL dog."

Dog rushed to vet after Arklay Street attack

A member of the public then drove Dani and the injured dog to the PDSA.

"My client's dog needed multiple stitches and staples," she said.

"She's going back for a review this week now that the swelling has gone down.

"She suffered puncture wounds, skin tears, and ligament damage to her paw."

Dani, who has been training dogs for four years, says more needs to be done to ensure XL bully-type dog owners comply with legislation.

Dani with her own dog, Kai. Image: Dani Butchart

"Just the next day, I saw another XL bully-type being walked near the same area – no muzzle," she said.

"Responsible owners are following the rules, but many aren't – and they're not even fitting the safety equipment properly.

"With the number of dogs in this city, the dog warden is stretched far beyond capacity.

"We need more support and more boots on the ground.

"I want to be clear that I'm not against large, powerful dogs.

"I own large dogs myself, as do my friends and colleagues – but they are responsible owners who have trained and provided for their dogs' needs."

Police and council confirm investigation

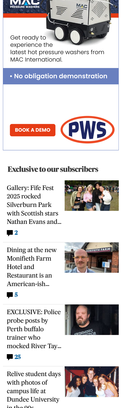
A spokeswoman for Police Scotland said: "Around 12.25pm on Monday, July 14, we received a report of a woman and a dog having been attacked by another dog on Arklay Street, Dundee.

"The woman sought medical attention at hospital and the dog, a lurcher, was treated by a vet.

"Inquiries are ongoing to trace the dog and those involved."

A Dundee City Council spokeswoman added: "The council is aware of the incident and is assisting Police Scotland with this matter."

TAGS arklay street Dundee Dundee City Council Police Scotland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